


# YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

Week of July 6, 2015

No. 211

## Washington County Public Library

### **Shark Week Display**

Materials for all ages are on display during Shark Week at Washington County Public Library. We've enjoyed the kids and adults walking by squealing 'shark!' Submitted by Amanda Bailey, Youth & Branch Services Librarian 



**“When you are growing up, there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully – the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you. The public library is a great equalizer.”**

~ Keith Richards ~  
Rolling Stones Guitarist

## Tazewell County Public Library

### **Comic Con on a Shoestring**

Over 400 people attended the **second annual Tazewell Comic Con** on Saturday, June 6th, at the Tazewell Main Library in Tazewell, VA. For a town with a population of almost 7,000, this was an outstanding success. Highlights of the event included a Costume Contest and attendance by Star Wars characters from the 501st Legion. **This event was used as a kick-off to our Summer Reading Programs.** Despite our shoestring budget, the event was a tremendous success due to the many individuals and community organizations that donated their time and talent.



### **Budget**

Our budget consisted of \$150. Most of this money went towards ordering costume contest and door prizes for attendees. These prizes included Pop! Vinyls, action figures, plush dolls, small Lego sets, and paperback books. These prizes were between \$6 and \$10 in value. Each costume contest participant received a small prize for participating that was provided for free from the Christian Appalachian Project. The remainder of our money was used to purchase water for vendors, staff, and volunteers. Next year, the library hopes to get donations from businesses throughout the area so that

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# Youth Services Notes

is issued weekly by

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The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, IMLS helps communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning. This newsletter project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.



*Thanks* for the photos and information!

- ◇ **Don Hirst**, Northumberland Public Library
- ◇ **Lisa Tyson** and **Chris Wilkes**, Tazewell County Public Library
- ◇ **Amanda Bailey**, Washington County Public Library
- ◇ **And the usual resources** — ALA, Universities Space Research Association



## Dates to Remember

### Virginia Conferences

October 21-23, 2015..... Virginia Library Association Annual Conference..... Richmond

### National Conferences

November 6-8, 2015..... YALSA'S 2015 Young Adult Symposium..... Portland

April 5-9, 2016..... Public Library Association 2016 Conference..... Denver

June 23-28, 2016..... American Library Association Annual Conference..... Orlando

September 15-17, 2016..... ALSC National Institute 2016..... Charlotte

### Workshops / Early Literacy Activity Center (ELAC) Exchanges

September 9-10, 2015..... Library of Virginia Fall Youth Services Workshop..... Richmond

September 16-17, 2015..... Library of Virginia Coaching Workshop..... Burke



## Comic Con on a Shoestring

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we can provide more food for volunteers and vendors as well as money to purchase prizes.



### Staff & Volunteers

We had nine staff members, four teen volunteers, and five adult volunteers. At the 2014 Comic Con, we only had one adult volunteer and five volunteers. The additional three volunteers played a large role in making this event run smoothly. Staff members did such diverse things as run programs; circulate books; sign up families for summer reading programs; set up and break down for the event; and assist with the costume contest.

Teen volunteers helped setup and break down for the event. They moved chairs and tables as well as assisted vendors. One teen volunteer dressed as Princess Elsa from Frozen and had a story time and sing-a-long with children.

Our Technical Services

Librarian and two teen volunteers formed "The Super Cosmic Banjo Band sans Band" that played live music

throughout the costume contest; they had been practicing once a week for over two months in preparation.

Two Tazewell Area Chamber of Commerce members volunteered their time to greet attendees and set up on the day of the event. A staff member's husband dressed up as the Green Lantern and judged the costume contest. Another adult volunteer tallied the votes for the costume contest, which allowed the entire contest to run very smoothly. The craft tables were maintained by an adult volunteer.



### Marketing

We began marketing two months before the start of the Comic Con on our website, Twitter and on Facebook. A month before the event, we sent out information to local organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Tazewell, and Tazewell Tourism to place on their website. In addition, we sent out articles about the upcoming event to local newspapers. Two weeks before the event we blanketed numerous local businesses and community organizations throughout the town of Tazewell. At this time, we distributed flyers to all the local schools. One week before the event, McDonalds gave Comic Con handouts to drive-thru customers in carry out bags.

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## Comic Con on a Shoestring

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### Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships allowed us to provide more activities for participants in this year's Comic Con than last year. The library co-promoted the Comic Con with the Town of Tazewell's "Trucks & Tractors" event, which was on the same day. Both events were able to reach more kids and teens than either could have alone.



The Tazewell County Sheriff's Office allowed us free access to a former Middle School gymnasium, which is right next to the library; the gym proved invaluable in providing enough space for our large attendance. The previous year, the library had the costume contest inside the library, making it very difficult to move around and to be heard. The Sheriff's Office brought out several vehicles, including a mobile crime lab, and set up a tent to talk with attendees. The Sheriff even was a judge for our costume contest. We also received assistance from the Town of Tazewell, who generously donated a mic and sound system for the event. As mentioned previously, the Chamber of Commerce provided a couple volunteers and the Christian Appalachian Project provided free small prizes.

### Programs & Activities

We had numerous activities for all age groups. The Richlands High School Techie Tornadoes conducted a Robotics demonstration. Our Children's Librarian Assistant had two "Draw Olaf & Friends" workshops. We



had two Tae Kwon Do demonstrations. As mentioned previously, one of our teen volunteers gave a story time and sing along dressed as Princess Elsa from Frozen. Our



Technical Service Librarian led a Trivia Contest. Our Reference Librarian had a program on "Censorship in Comics." We also had a room set aside for board games as well as several crafts and Lego tables. We also had fandom meetups throughout the day so that attendees could meet other people in the Tazewell community that had similar Scifi, fantasy, or comics tastes.

### Vendors

We had artists, writers, a gaming vendor, and a toy vendor selling their merchandise throughout the event; they came as far away as two hours to attend the event. We learned from our first Comic Con that attendees became hungry during the event and often left early; this year we had a hot dog and donut vendors as well as a local Mexican restaurant selling food throughout the day.



### Contact

If you would like additional details on how we ran this event on such a small budget, please contact Children's Librarian Lisa Tyson or Reference Librarian Chris Wilkes.

— Submitted by Lisa Tyson, Youth Services Coordinator

**"Libraries are the mind and soul of their communities, and librarians are the mind and soul of the library."**

~ American Library Association ~



Northumberland Public Library**Superhero Dress Up Story Hour**

About 15 children arrived in Superhero tees and costumes for the first **Superhero Dress Up Story Hour** at the Northumberland Public Library, Wednesday, June 24. They heard Superhero stories and made Superhero shields. Story Hours during the library's Summer Reading Program, are held most Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The 2015 Summer Reading Program theme is "Every Hero Has a Story."

— Submitted by Don Hirst, Publicist

**Special Reading Event  
Draws Big Crowd**

The Northumberland Public Library's June 29 Special Reading Event drew an estimated audience of about 260 to the Northumberland Family YMCA in Heathsville. They experienced a fun-filled and informative hour with Atomic Ali, the Mad Scientist.

The event – "Fire and Ice" -- saw the Mad Scientist use everything from dry ice to Eggbert the Egg to wow the children and pique their interest in science. The show included several demonstrations of the properties of dry ice – frozen carbon dioxide – and

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## Special Reading Event at Northumberland

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even featured a dry ice bubble bath and dry ice showers.

The finale was particularly impressive. Clouds of “fog” generated by mixing water with chunks of dry ice gave the audience a firsthand look at how dry ice is used in movies for special effects.

Audience members said they really enjoyed themselves. Jacob Neff, 11, called it “awesome” and also informative. Kemyah Johnson, 11, liked the dry ice demonstration. Johnson said that she was already interested in science, but the Special Reading Event gave it a boost.


“It was cool,” she said.

— Submitted by Don Hirst, Publicist 

## Conference Report

### 2015 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition—Historic Celebrations, Future-Focused Work

The celebratory energy fueling the 2015 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference & Exhibition, June 25-June 30 in San Francisco gave an especially productive edge to the hard work accomplished by the 22,696 librarians, library workers and library supporters (including 6,813 exhibitors) attending from all over the world.

Focused on the shared goal of “**Transforming our libraries, ourselves**,” attendees made the most of formal and informal opportunities—from scheduled sessions and facilitated conversations to serendipitous 

encounters in the Networking Uncommons and hallways—for exchanging ideas, updates, innovations and inspiration. In the Exhibit Hall, 915 companies highlighted the latest products and services, and authors both popular and new. More than 2,850 scheduled programs, sessions and events took place at the Moscone Convention Center and nearby venues.

In-depth coverage of specific Annual Conference events, speakers, awards and other highlights can be found in *American Libraries* (<http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/tag/alaac15/>) and the show daily *Cognotes* (<http://alaac15.ala.org/cognotes>) .

The upbeat tone that characterized the whole conference was set on Friday, June 26 at the **Opening General Session**, which kicked off with cheers for that

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## 2015 ALA Annual Conference

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morning's announcement of the historic Supreme Court decision on marriage equality. As the litigator responsible for invalidating a key section of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) two years to the day earlier, **Roberta A. Kaplan** was an especially timely and inspiring speaker, and surprise guest **Nancy Pelosi**, minority leader of the House of Representatives, added to the celebration. (Pelosi attended to honor managers who kept the Enoch Pratt Free Library and its branches open and engaged with the Baltimore community during the civil unrest in April 2015.)

**"Show Your Pride" was a consistent conference theme**, with special events and programs, a first-time GLBTQ Pavilion in the Exhibits, the wrap-up of ALA's first time sponsoring the nationwide **GLBT Book Month™**, the **Stonewall Book Awards Program** celebrating the best in GLBTQ literature and more. Around 100 conference attendees marched with staff from the San Francisco Public Library in Sunday's exuberant **Pride Parade** that passed just blocks from the conference site, while others cheered them on. Many other areas of equality, diversity and inclusion provided a focus, including the **2015 ALA Diversity and Outreach Fair** that featured library services to people experiencing poverty and homelessness, among other underserved and underrepresented communities. Dozens of attendees suggested possible actions related to diversity and inclusion by completing the sentence on the **Networking Uncommons wall**: "In order to improve the climate of diversity and inclusion within ALA, I plan to \_\_\_\_\_."

**Some content was organized around ALA's three strategic directions: advocacy, information policy and professional and leadership development.** Attendees commented on being excited to engage in conversations, many on topics not getting much attention elsewhere. Rooms were packed for sessions on digital content, community engagement, the impact and potential of the newest technologies, digital literacy, the state of the school library, privacy and surveillance, services for makers, accessible gaming, innovative services for English Language Learners (ELLs) and immigrants, services for veterans, financial education, intellectual property and 3D printing, sustainable libraries and many more.

**Well attended policy sessions hosted by the ALA Washington Office**

(<http://www.districtdispatch.org/tag/alaac15/>)

explored priorities related to privacy and surveillance, broadband, copyright reform, federal library funding and ongoing progress in ebook access and e-government services. ALA's association-wide incubator

for experimentation, the **Center for the Future of Libraries**, hosted librarians highlighting organization-changing innovations, while external partners, including the *John S. and James L. Knight Foundation*, The Long Now Foundation, Google and Steelcase showed how their work and research can help libraries shape their future. **Libraries Transforming Communities** (LTC), the initiative that seeks to strengthen libraries' roles as core community leaders and change-agents through tools and support, offered **"Turning Outward to Lead Change in Your Community"** training sessions. Eight facilitated "kitchen table" conversations encouraged small groups to focus on how ALA can work towards improving the member experience.

Much of the learning and conversation (structured and unstructured, planned and unplanned) at ALA's face-to-face events provides important connections for subsequent collaboration, including online. Spaces at Annual Conference that intentionally foster informal learning include the **Unconference**, **Library Camp** and the **Networking Uncommons**, which has become a popular space for informal idea exchange and events. **Multiple Conversation Starter** and **Ignite sessions** offered short, informal presentations on hot topics.

**In addition to the demonstrations and introduction of hundreds of new, updated and favorite products, technologies and titles, dozens of authors, related events and poster sessions kept the exhibit floor busy.** The specialty pavilions were active, piles of ARCs were eagerly snatched up, signing lines were long and hundreds enjoyed readings and demonstrations at **Book Buzz Theater** and the **Graphic Novel/Gaming, What's Cooking at ALA?** and **PopTop Stages**. New in the exhibits at this conference was **Libraries Without Borders "Ideasbox,"** a media center in a box that allows refugee and disaster-struck communities to "access information and reconstruct their social and civil lives."

**New titles, authors and related awards were at the heart of the conference for many attendees,** discussed and celebrated in dozens of venues, starting with the Booklist and YALSA Michael L. Printz Program and Reception on Friday evening, followed by the fourth Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction announcements and celebration on Saturday. Other celebrations honored previously announced award winners and honorees, including the Coretta Scott King Book Awards, the Pura Belpré Medals, the Margaret A. Edwards Award, the Newbery, Caldecott and Wilder Medals and the Stonewall Book Awards.

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## 2015 ALA Annual Conference

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### Standing-room-only Auditorium Speaker sessions

included writers, activists, thought-leaders, actors and artists **Gloria Steinem**, **Haifaa al-Mansour**, **Sarah Vowell** in (hilarious) conversation with **Nick Offerman**, **Nick Offerman** solo, **Joshua Davis** with **Rick Jacobs** and **David Thomson**, **Edwidge Danticat** and **Sonia Manzano**. At the **President's Program**, **Courtney L. Young** presented **Sarah Lewis**, whose "**Embrace the Near Win**" was selected as one of TED Talks' 2014 Collection of the Most Powerful Talks. The **Closing General Session** featured Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **Robbie Robertson** and Caldecott Honor winner **David Shannon**. Division presidents' programs also featured some outstanding and well attended speakers. (And although not a conference speaker, **Snoopy** made a popular appearance to set the stage as honorary chair of Library Card Sign-up Month in September.) At the second Banned Books Video Readout Booth, attendees read a short passage from their selected banned book and spoke from the heart about why that book matters to them. (Readings will be on the dedicated YouTube channel during Banned Books Week.)

**2014-15 ALA President Courtney L. Young** passed the gavel to **incoming President Sari Feldman**, who, with the new ALA division presidents and executive board members, was presented at the Inaugural Brunch. **Feldman unveiled the new multi-year ALA public awareness campaign, "Libraries Transform," focusing on the idea that libraries today are less about what they have for people and more about what they do for and with people.**

Dozens more speakers, events and professional development opportunities including preconferences and the Spectrum Leadership Institute, contributed to the high energy of the conference. ALA association business was conducted throughout the conference, including several resolutions passed by ALA Council, each of which will be described in detail in a news release on the ALA news feed.

Social media channels and virtual meetings will help continue the Annual Conference conversations, which will be picked up face to face again at the **2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Boston**. Bundle registration for 2016 events opens September 9, 2015. Midwinter-only registration and housing open October 1, 2015. Annual Conference-only registration and housing open January 19, 2016.

ALA Press Release, June 30, 2015 

## From Universities Space Research Association

### Discover NASA Traveling Exhibition

The National Center for Interactive Learning, with funding from NASA, is pleased to announce a new traveling library exhibition program: FOTOS (From Our Town to Outer Space).

FOTOS includes a traveling 700 square foot exhibition (Discover NASA), an in-person training workshop, webinars, access to NASA developed activities and programming, and more! Six libraries will be chosen to host the exhibition, but everyone will have access to the related webinars and activities/programming.



#### For more information...

- ◆ For details on the exhibition program, and to preview the application, please head to: <http://community.starnetlibraries.org/grant-opportunities/>
- ◆ For any questions on the program, or difficulties downloading the application, please contact Anne Holland [aholland@spacescience.org](mailto:aholland@spacescience.org) or [aholland@spacescience.org](mailto:aholland@spacescience.org)
- ◆ Attend the "From Our Town to Outer Space" pre-application webinar, Wednesday, July 8, 2015 12:00 pm Central Daylight Time. To register for the pre-application webinar, please go to: <https://spacescienceevent.webex.com/spacescienceevent/onstage/g.php?d=669642075&t=a!> Password to register is "FOTOS". The webinar is limited to 100 applicants, so participants from the same institution are encouraged to log in from one machine. The webinar will be recorded for those who cannot attend the session. Please note that the 11 am start time is Mountain Time, and plan accordingly.

Email from Keliann LaConte. July 7, 2015 



**Read to the Rhythm!**  
**2015**